



#7/a

R sponse to USPTO Office Action

Confirmation Number: 5713

Examiner: Abdulhakim Nobahar

Art Unit: 2132

Title: Computer Virus Avoidance System and Mechanism

Application Number: 09/470,058

Inventor: Welborn et al

Date: October 8, 2003

RECEIVED

NOV 19 2003

Technology Center 2100

Summary of the Invention

Nearly all computer viruses require an action by a computer user to infect and spread. The key is to educate users not to open e-mail attachments that might carry computer viruses. The key is behavior modification, as education is not sufficient. Effective behavior modification must have a means to reinforce the change and measure the change in user behavior. The invention sends an e-mail with an attachment to e-mail users and creates a list of all users that open the attachment. The user is sent an e-mail with an attachment that looks similar to attachments that contain computer viruses. If the attachment is opened, an e-mail is sent to a specific e-mail address. This e-mail address collects all of the e-mail from users who have not changed behavior and need additional education or management attention.